

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

December 12, 2014

Connecticut State Department Of Education

CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

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Smarter Balanced Achievement Level Setting

Member states of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium recently voted to approve initial achievement levels for the mathematics and English language arts/literacy assessments that will be administered in the spring of 2015. Information about the achievement levels and the process that Smarter Balanced used to develop them is available on the [Achievement Levels](#) page of the Smarter Balanced Web site. A video featuring educators and other key stakeholders who participated in the process is included.

Digital Library

Educators may use the Smarter Balanced Digital Library's state-of-the-art tagging, filtering, and search features to locate, view, download, and rate resources to:



- Differentiate instruction for diverse learners;
- Increase educator understanding of assessment;
- Engage students in their own learning;
- Design professional development opportunities; and
- Access materials for Professional Learning Communities.

Access the [Smarter Balanced Digital Library](#) to view resources that support teaching and learning.

The Digital Library will be down for scheduled maintenance on Monday, December 15 from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) Update

The Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) is scheduled to go live in mid-January. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will upload District Test Coordinator and Second Contact users. The contact information will be extracted from the [Measurement Incorporated \(MI\) Web Portal](#). Please verify that the contact/email information in the MI Web Portal is accurate.

Initial student-level data will be uploaded to TIDE in mid-January by the CSDE using the Public School Information System (PSIS) Registration Module. This upload will include student demographic information (e.g., name, SASID, gender). The CSDE will then refresh the student-level data file using daily uploads from the PSIS Registration Module. Districts **will not** be able to add or delete students, or make changes to student demographic information directly in TIDE. **All changes to enrollment status and student demographic information must be made in PSIS.**

The CSDE will also upload Special Education, English Learner, and Economically Disadvantaged (free/reduced lunch) status in mid-February, after the PSIS January 2015 Collection is certified. After the initial upload, any changes to a student's status, at the time of testing, should be made directly in the PSIS Registration Module. The PSIS Registration Module is being updated to include new fields for **Special Education, English Learner, and Economically Disadvantaged Status during Testing.**

More detailed information about the student-level data file and TIDE will be provided in a later update of the *Student Assessment News*. Information about uploading additional fields, such as designated supports and accommodations will also be provided in a later update.

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Interim Assessments Update

The Smarter Balanced interim assessments are scheduled to be released for district use on January 27, 2015. The Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICA) and Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB) will be released simultaneously. Release of the interim assessments is dependent upon the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) going live.

District Test Coordinator Workshops

District Test Coordinator Workshops are scheduled for January 21 – 23, 2015, at the Institute of Business and Technology Development (ITBD) in New Britain. Below are the specific dates/times.

DATE	TIME
January 21, 2015	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
January 22, 2015 (2 separate workshops)	8:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 1 – 4 p.m.
January 23, 2015	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Training will be provided for the administration of the Smarter Balanced assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, CMT/CAPT Science, CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Assessment, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments (NCSC) for English language arts and mathematics.

Unauthorized use of Smarter Balanced for Marketing

It has come to the CSDE's attention that vendors are using "Smarter Balanced" for marketing their own vendor-created products and vendor-sponsored workshops. Please be advised that these products and workshops are not sanctioned by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. The Smarter Balanced Communications Office has been notified about these unauthorized uses of "Smarter Balanced" in vendor marketing.

reminder

Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) and National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)

The [Connecticut Alternate Assessment \(CTAA\)](#) requires a trained educator to administer the test individually to students. All educators instructing students eligible for the CTAA/NCSC are required to receive training through the CSDE. This training is available as either live training or as an online course. In either case, educators should register through the [SERC Web site](#). Over 230 educators have attended the live training and over 950 have registered for the online course. District Test Coordinators interested in knowing who has completed this training can check on the [Measurement Incorporated \(MI\) web portal](#) under *CAPT Skills Checklist Certified Users* or *CMT Skills Checklist Certified Users* links. Additional online trainings on the actual components of administering and submitting the test online will be available by NCSC closer to the time of testing.

Students who are eligible for the CTAA/NCSC and are in Grades 5 or 8 are required to be administered the CMT Skills Checklist Science. Students in Grade 10 who are eligible are required to **only** be administered the CAPT Skills Checklist Science. Questions can be directed to Janet Stuck (janet.stuck@ct.gov/860-713-6837) or Joe Amenta (joseph.amenta@ct.gov/860-713-6855).

reminder

Assessment Reduction Grant

The [Assessment Reduction Grant](#) was released by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) on November 19, 2014. Please see the [announcement letter](#) from Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell. The submission date for proposals is January 9, 2015.

reminder

Updating the Measurement Incorporated Web Portal

To ensure that information regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the CMT/CAPT Science Test (including Skills Checklist Science), and Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) is sent to the appropriate district staff member(s),



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please verify that the District Test Coordinator (DTC) and Second Contact information is accurate in the District Contact Verification (DCV) application of the [Measurement Incorporated \(MI\) Web Portal](#). The Grades 3 – 8 Smarter Balanced DTC is equivalent to the CMT DTC and the Smarter Balanced High School DTC is equivalent to the CAPT DTC. Please contact the Measurement Incorporated Connecticut Help Line at 1-866-762-1060 or Connecticut@measinc.com for assistance with the MI Web Portal. If you received this communication and are not the DTC, please forward this newsletter to the appropriate district staff member.

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Levy Gillespie
Equal Employment Opportunity Director/American with Disabilities Act Coordinator
Connecticut State Department of Education
25 Industrial Park Road
Middletown, CT 06457

